

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Attached are an Annotated Sheet and a Replacement Sheet showing the correction to Figure 1 of the drawings, as requested by the Examiner.

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given by the applicant to the Examiner's comments and rejection of the claims, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Applicant notes the Examiner's objection to the drawings inasmuch as in Figure 1 there is provided an extra reference numerals "9", which requires deletion thereof.

Accordingly, in compliance with the Examiner's requirements, applicant herewith encloses an Annotated Sheet showing Figure 1 with the reference number "9" shown crossed out. Furthermore, applicant also encloses a Replacement Sheet showing that particular reference numeral having been deleted. The foregoing should fully meet the Examiner's requirements with regard to the objection to the drawings.

Applicant further notes the Examiner's objections to Claims 14, 15 and 20, under 35 U.S.S. §112, second paragraph, in failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

Accordingly, the terminology in Claims 14 and 20 has been amended in conformance with the requirements indicating in Claim 14 that a region is plastically deformable when the second housing part is pressed deeper into the first housing part, in which that particular region is formed on the first housing part. This language is supported on Page 17, lines 10-14 of the specification and should clarify the terminology.

Similarly, with regard to Claim 20, although the term "pot-shaped design" clearly would define an article such as a receptacle or pot-like member, applicant has amended the expression by eliminating "pot-shaped" and providing for the expression "is formed as a collection receptacle". This, in effect, clearly defines that the cross-section of the closing body is basically the same shape as a pot or receptacle.

Applicant further notes the rejection of Claims 1-7, 13, 16-19 and 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tarnay, et al., as detailed in the Office Action; Claims 1-4, 7, 13, 16-19 and 21-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Stein, German Document DE 10014191; Claims 1, 3, 4, 13 and 16-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Petursson, U.S. Patent No. 4,493,338, as detailed in the Office Action; Claim 7 has been rejected also under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tarnay, et al. or Stein; Claim 12 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Tarnay, et al. or Stein; Claims 1-13, 16-20, and 21-23 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Knapp in view of Barton, as detailed in the Office Action.

However, upon careful consideration of the art, applicant notes that the claims are directed to patentable subject matter, irrespective as to whether the references are considered singly or in combination. In particular, in order to advance the prosecution and potentially place the application into order for allowance, applicant has cancelled Claims 2, 3 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer and incorporated the limitations and structure thereof into Claim 1.

In particular, Claim 1, as amended, and presented herein, presents clearly unique patentable subject matter in view of the art, concerning which applicant notes as follows:

Since the prior art fails to disclose any determination of the overall length of a valve with a first housing part comprising a closing body and a second housing part by an insertion of the valve into a receiving recess for receiving a housing part, there is not shown any valve and valve carrier specific determination of such an overall length during the mounting of the valve into the receiving recess of a valve carrier. This structure is subject to the disadvantage that the overall length, when otherwise determined, may lead to poor or inadequate sealing properties of the contact between second housing part of the valve and the receiving recess of the valve carrier because the

position of the sealing element is not well-defined. In particular, an axially operating sealing, as in applicants' Claims 4 and 6, is impossible in the art, since tolerances of the valve and the valve carrier may be difficult to correlate and are, thus, non-compatible. Moreover, the length of the valve may not be well adapted to the particular mounting length of the receiving recess of the valve carrier into which the valve is inserted.

Accordingly, contrary to the prior art, the object of the invention to provide a simple valve that is insertable into receiving recesses of valve carriers possessing different lengths, and thereby being able to reduce any requirements in implement component precision of tolerances, as set forth on Page 15, lines 16-18 of the specification. The problem is solved by means of the valve according to amended Claim 1, whereby the overall length of the valve is always adapted automatically to the specific valve carrier into which it is inserted. In particular, there can be utilized valve carriers with differently sized receiving recesses, whereas additional sealing elements as required in the prior art can be readily omitted from the structure.

Reverting now, in particular, to the references as cited by the Examiner in the Office Action, applicant submits the following arguments in traverse of the applicability thereof:

Tarnay actually discloses a valve with a bonnet constituting a first housing part, which comprises a top plate forming a closing body and a bottom plate being a second housing part that is connected with the first housing part. However, the first housing part and the second housing part are fixedly connected to each other (Col. 2, lines 50-51). However, the overall length of the valve, however, is not determined by an insertion of the valve into a receiving recess of a valve carrier, and there is also employed a seal ring for radially sealing (Fig. 2; Item 26).

Stein also discloses a valve with a first housing part comprising a closing body, and a second housing part that is connected with the first housing part. The first housing part and the

second housing part are, however, connected to each other prior to and not during the mounting of the valve (Col. 3; lines 64-66). Again, the overall length of the valve is not determined by an insertion of the valve into a receiving recess of a valve carrier.

Furthermore, Petursson provides for a valve with a first housing part comprising a closing member and a second housing part that is connected with the first housing part. The first housing part and the second housing part are, however, also fixedly connected to each other (Col. 2; lines 24-25). Accordingly, the overall length of the valve is, again, not determined by an insertion of the valve into a receiving recess of valve carrier, while sealing is implemented in a manner similar to Tarnay by means of a seal-ring (Fig. 1; Item 26).

Knapp discloses a first housing part (Item 1; while 10 belongs to 1 (Col. 2; lines 44-46)) comprising a closing body (Item 12; while 12 belongs to 9 (Col. 4; lines 60-63)) and a second housing part (Item 15) that is connected with the first housing part. However, the first housing part and the second housing part are also fixedly connected to each other, with nothing else being illustrated. The longitudinal extension of the fixed connection is, again, not determined by an insertion of the valve into a receiving recess of a valve carrier. Instead, of a sealing edge corresponding to the sealing edge of the valve according to the invention there is utilized a static packing (16) or a sealing member (19).

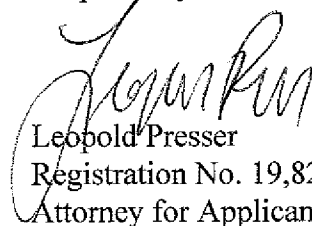
Finally, Barton fails to show any valve, and the subject matter of amended Claim 1 is also novel with regard to this particular reference.

With regard to the prior art cited by the Examiner as being of record but not specifically applied to the claims, such as Burke, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,189,561, Gute, U.S. Patent No. 5,107,890 and Rodstein, U.S. Patent No. 4,966,186, applicant notes that none of these publications show a determination of the overall length of a valve with a first housing part

comprising a closing body in a second housing part, through an insertion of the valve into a receiving recess of a valve carrier. Consequently, this art is even more remote from the present invention than the applied art cited by the Examiner.

In summation, inasmuch as amended Claim 1, which incorporates the limitations of Claims 2, 3 and 5, is deemed to clearly and patentably distinguish over the cited art, irrespective as to whether the latter is considered singly or in combination, the application is deemed to be clearly in condition for allowance, and the early issuance of the Notice of Allowance by the Examiner is earnestly solicited. However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicant's attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: One (1) Annotated Sheet and One (1) Replacement Sheet for amending Figure 1.